

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 03318 071442Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 OES-07 AID-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /067 W
-----114531 072210Z /63
R 071410Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1531

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: MIAMI CONFERENCE, JANUARY 18 - 21, 1978

REF: STATE 253911

1. WE ARE TROUBLED ABOUT THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN REFTTEL TO SEEK CHIEF OF STATE PARTICIPATION IN THE MIAMI CONFERENCE OF U.S. - CARIBBEAN BASIN TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM, JANUARY 18 - 21, AND WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THESE CONCERNS BEFORE PROCEEDING.

2. FIRST CONCERN IS APPROPRIATENESS OF CHIEF OF STATE PARTICIPATION. PRESIDENT CLARKE'S POSITION IS MAINLY CEREMONIAL. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HE HAS NOT (RPT NOT) PARTICIPATED IN CONFERENCES OF THIS TYPE AND SERIOUSLY DOUBT HE WOULD BE AVAILABLE. FURTHERMORE, HE DOES NOT RETURN FROM EXTENDED VACATION IN EUROPE AND U.S. UNTIL EARLY DECEMBER AND MIGHT NOT FIND IT CONVENIENT TO ABSENT HIMSELF FROM COUNTRY SO SOON AFTER THIS VACATION.

3. SECOND CONCERN WE HAVE RELATES TO SUBSTANTIVE THEME OF CONFERENCE. WE DOUBT THAT PROPOSAL FOR GOTT PARTICIPATION WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION. GOTT PRIDES ITSELF ON HAVING TOURISM POLICY WHICH IN
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MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS IS CONTRADICTORY TO POLICIES OF OTHER ISLANDS. TOURISM HERE IS PURPOSEFULLY PLAYED DOWN. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, GOTT ATTITUDE WILL BE THAT IT HAS NOTHING IT CARES TO LEARN FROM CARIBBEAN AND LA NEIGHBORS ON THIS SCORE.

4. WE DON'T WANT TO DISCOUNT IN ANY WAY THE OBVIOUS

IMPORTANCE TO THE BUREAU AND TO OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS POSTURE THAT SUCH CONFERENCES HAVE, BUT OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT CHANCES FOR TOP-LEVEL GOTT PARTICIPATION IN MIAMI CONFERENCE ARE NIL, AND FOR TECHNICAL-LEVEL PARTICIPATION ONLY SLIGHT.

5. OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE LOW-KEY ADVICE TO THE GOTT THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE IS BEING PLANNED, PLACING HEAVIEST EMPHASIS ON THE OBJECTIVE OF BRINGING ABOUT IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF THE AREA, AT SAME TIME EXPRESSING HOPE THAT GOTT WILL CONSIDER SENDING AN APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE. DEPT. MIGHT CONSIDER EXTENDING INVITATION THROUGH MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON, WITH OUR PARTICIPATION HERE BEING IN THE NATURE OF A FOLLOW-UP AT LATER DATE.

DECONTROLLED FOLLOWING FEBRUARY 1, 1978.
FOX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: TOURISM, MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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